

**REMARKS**

In the forgoing amendment, claims 1-8 are amended. Now pending in the applications are claims 1-8 and 10-19, of which claims 1 and 10 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

**Interview**

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking her time to discuss the issues in the Office Action during the telephone interview on August 16, 2005. Applicants also thank the Examiner for agreeing to the Applicants' proposed claim amendments addressing the issues in the Office Action. Applicants submit this Amendment and Response to the Office Action based on the discussion with the Examiner during the interview.

**Claim Amendments**

Applicants amend claims 1-8 to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. In particular, independent claim 1 is amended to recite insulating picture frame-shaped *members* attached to an outer edge of each of the separators for allowing increase and decrease of a space between the separators during movement of the separators while the space between adjacent separators is sealed by the picture frame-shaped *members*. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the figures and corresponding descriptions in the specification of the pending application. No new matter is added.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to provide an enabling disclosure for a single insulating picture frame-shaped member attached to more than one separator. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend independent claim 1 to recite insulating picture frame-shaped *members* attached to an outer edge of each of the separators. Applicants also amend dependent claims 2-8 to coincide with amended claim 1. In

light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the specification of the pending application provides an enabling disclosure for the claimed invention.

The Office Action also states that claim 7 does not comply with the written requirement. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend claim 7 to recite an insulating outer edge member for covering *a surface of one of the separators outside of* one of the peripheral sealing members wherein the insulating outer edge member is integrally formed with the peripheral sealing member. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that amended claim 7 complies with the written requirement, and therefore request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend claims 2 and 6-8 to address the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants amend claim 2 to recite that a first of the picture frame-shaped *members* being attached to one of the separators is constituted so as to be able to slide relative to a second of the picture frame-shaped *members* being attached to the other separator and seal the space between the separators. Applicants also amend claim 6 to recite peripheral sealing *members* each of which surrounds a corrugated portion of each of the separators, and claim 8 to recite that a first of the peripheral sealing *members* of a respective separator is formed in a flat shape, and a second of the peripheral sealing *members* of an adjacent separator which faces to said flat peripheral sealing member is formed so as to protrude. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

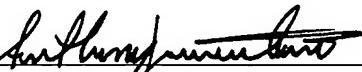
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes \$300.00 is due with this statement and request and extension of time herewith. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. SIW-031 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Anthony A. LaFrentano  
Registration No.: 38,220  
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP  
28 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
(617) 227-7400 (Tel)  
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicants